

LETTERS

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We will revisit this move as the COVID-19 situation evolves in Sisters and Central Oregon.
Jim Cornelius
Editor-in-Chief

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To the Editor:
To prevent further spread of the coronavirus, we should require everyone to get fully vaccinated (including a possible third dose) — unless exempted by a sincerely held religious belief or medical condition. We should write to our legislators and executives at all levels of government.
Alvin Blake

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:
A letter in *The Nugget* stated 358 children in the USA died of COVID-19 January 2020-July 2021. Inaccurately, the letter said none of those deaths were in Oregon. Furthermore, it is not correct that Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 127.507) gives Oregon citizens the right of mask refusal. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and ORS provide clarity.
OHA defines children/pediatrics as those not yet 18 years old. CDC includes age 18. CDC reported from January 4, 2020 to October 2, 2021 there were a total of 587 deaths of children from COVID-19; 181 aged 0 - 4 years and 406 aged 5 - 18. OHA reported three pediatric deaths; April 26, 2020 to September 12, 2021.
Importantly, both CDC and OHA report a marked increase in hospitalizations of children ages 0-5 years from August to early September 2021. OHA reports the highest number of COVID cases for children are in Grant, Harney, and Jefferson counties. Of the 334,969 cases reported in Oregon to date, 18,044 (5.4 percent) have been hospitalized, and 3,823 (1.1 percent) have died. Lucky us.
Under the doctrine of *in loco parentis*, schools

and teachers are responsible for and have authority over the safety and health of children — like requiring masks.
ORS Chapter 127 is titled “Powers of Attorney; Advance Directives for Health Care; Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Registry; Declarations for Mental Health Treatment; Death with Dignity.”
ORS 127.505 is titled “Definitions for ORS 127.505 to 127.660.” Definition (9): “‘Health care’ means diagnosis, treatment or care of disease, injury and congenital or degenerative conditions, including the use, maintenance, withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining procedures and the use, maintenance, withdrawal or withholding of artificially administered nutrition and hydration.”
Therefore, when ORS 127.507 states, “Capable adults may make their own health care decisions,” it has absolutely nothing to do with one’s right, or not, to don a mask. It means if one is in the midst of a personal health crisis requiring a life-threatening decision to be made and one is also capable of making that decision, then ORS 127.507 protects that person from others making that decision for them.
What allows the mask-less to be so is that there are no “teeth” in the mandate to wear masks; no punishment. One can choose not to wear a mask, but then the school district has the legal right to add teeth: refuse the mask-less admittance, eject them from the premises, and/or fine the mask-less. For the same reason it is not acceptable to scream “FIRE” in a theater, one is not allowed to put others’ children at risk during a pandemic.
Susan Cobb

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:
In her letter to the editor of September 29, Mary Chaffin is obviously frustrated with the effect of COVID-19 and that people are not complying with her belief that taking the shot is the only solution according to science.
She claims people can safely take the vaccine and that is true. Does that mean in reality there

are no side effects and/or unknown long-term side effects? What happened to “my body my choice” or “it’s between me and my doctor and family.”
If you are vaccinated, protected, and also wear a mask, where is the logic that somehow a person who has natural immunity is a danger to you?
In going to the link she referenced (concerning misinformation) I looked for her idea that *The Nugget* should adopt the approach taken by the *Malheur Enterprise* and “name and shame those who do so.” It may be there but I didn’t see those words “name and shame.” In my opinion it’s a dangerous “woke” slippery slope.
So who is the arbiter of truth — Don Lemon, WHO, Biden, Pelosi, Fauci, or Governor Brown? People on all sides of the argument are concerned or scared and don’t agree on what “science” or “data” to believe. Therefore, sticking with the freedom to choose however your conscience leads you should be respected at this point.
Somehow, I can’t stop believing that the whole truth is tied to following the money.
Jeff Mackey

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Clarification

To the Editor:
Clarification of my letter to the editor on October 6: Although Thomas Jefferson did indeed coin the term “Separation of Church and State” in his early writings, the phrase does not ultimately appear in the final ratified text of the Bill of Rights. I apologize for any confusion this caused.
Sharon Booth

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Conspiracy Theory Mom

To the Editor:
I just read some back issues of *The Nugget*, and laughed when I read the article regarding the conspiracy theory mom. This generation has grown

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